

Biggleswade Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances

of the District

FOR THE YEAR 1914,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Reports of the Sanitary Inspectors.

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To the Chairman and Members
OF THE
Rural District Council of Biggleswade.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Gurney, and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district for the year 1914.

My appointment as your Medical Officer dates from May 1914, but the report covers the whole of the year.

Much useful work has been accomplished, and the health of the district has been satisfactory, especially if the abnormal conditions prevailing owing to the National Crisis are taken into account.

I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk of the Council and his staff, and to your Inspectors for their help, and also to Drs. Welsh and Milburn for so kindly undertaking to carry on my work during the absence you willingly granted me, when I suggested that my services might possibly be acceptable to the Royal Army Medical Corps.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HUTCHINSON WOOD.

April, 1915.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1914.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53,627 acres
Population (Census 1911)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,934
Estimated Population, 1914	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,045
Increase of Population (1901—1911)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	336
Density of Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	about 1 person to 2½ acres	
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1911)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,088
Average number of persons per house (Census 1911)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.3
Birth-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.1
Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.2
Infantile Death-Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76.5
Zymotic Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.31
Phthisis Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.40
Tuberculosis (all forms) Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.72
Cancer Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.86
The Rateable Value in 1914 was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£133,142
The Assessable Value in 1914 was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£108,692
The Assessable Value (Special Expenses) was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£73,059

Public Health Acts Adopted.

- I. Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted January, 1891.
- II. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890, Part III, adopted September, 1896.

Bye-laws or Regulations are in force in respect of:—

Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Removal of House Refuse, Cleansing of Privies, etc., Prevention of Nuisances, Keeping of Animals, New Streets and Buildings (Structure and Drainage), Cleansing of Footways, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops.

The new bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings have been in force during the year. These were adopted during the latter part of last year, and the sanction of the Local Government Board was received in February 1914.

Physical Features of the District.

The Biggleswade Rural District covers an area of 53,627 acres, lying in the South-east of the County of Bedford. On the North-west, North and North-east it is bounded by the Bedford Rural and Eaton Socon Rural Districts and by the County of Cambridge; on the South-east by the Ampthill Rural District and on the South and South-east by the County of Hertford. The district is flat and through it flows the river Ivel, which receives in its course many small tributaries and a good deal of the drainage of the district. The geological formation is varied. In the South the substratum is chalk, further North comes the gault, and further North still the greensand. In each of these portions of the district there is an over-laying of gravel and boulder-clay. In most parts of the district the level of the ground-water is usually very high.

It is said that the extraordinary productiveness of the market gardens in the Ivel valley is largely due to the mixture of the light warm sand with the alluvial soil.

Chief Occupations, etc.

The chief industry of the Rural District is market gardening on a large scale, which provides occupation for both men and women, and often the children. The chief centres of this industry are Sandy and Biggleswade on the Great Northern Railway (main line), which runs North and South through the district. At Potton is a tannery of considerable size, and at Arlesey there are Cement Works, and Brick Works, employing in all perhaps some 350 men.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Tables on pages 41-44).

Population.

I estimate the population of the district at the middle of 1914 as 22,045.

Births.

The nett number of births assignable to the district in 1914 was 444 (228 males and 216 females); this is equal to a Birth-rate of 20.1 per 1000 of the population as compared with 20.9 for the year 1913.

The illegitimate births numbered 16, which is equal to 3.6 per cent of the total births as compared with 3.4 per cent. in 1913.

There is a large decrease in the number of births, namely, 444 for 1914, as compared with 460 in 1913, 489 in 1912, and 495 in both 1911 and 1910.

Deaths.

327 deaths were registered; 126 of these occurred among persons not usually residing in the district; 24 deaths occurred in other parts of the country among persons usually resident in this district. The nett number of deaths, therefore, belonging to this district is 225, which is equal to a Death-rate of 10.2 per 1000 of the population as compared with 12.8 for the year 1913. The increase or decrease in the number of deaths from the principal causes as compared with the year 1913 is shown by the following :—

	Deaths in		Increase	Decrease
	1913	1914		
Acute Infectious Disease	8	5	—	3
Tubercular Disease	35	16	—	19
Diseases of the Lungs (other than Consumption)	29	48	19	—
Cancer	28	19	—	9
Bright's Disease	10	7	—	3
Violent Deaths	9	10	1	—
Diarrhœa	1	3	2	—

Table III. at the end of the Report shows the number and causes of deaths at each age-period.

The Institutional deaths occurred in the Three Counties Asylum.

The number of deaths under 5 years of age was 47, against 59 both in 1912 and 1913, and 6 deaths occurred between 5 and 15 years of age.

Between 15 and 25 years of age 6 out of 13 deaths were due to Tuberculous Disease.

Between 25 and 45 years of age, of the 16 deaths, 5 were due to some form of Tuberculosis.

Between 45 and 65 years of age, of 35 deaths, 9 were due to Cancer and 8 to Heart Disease.

At 65 years and upwards, Cancer caused 8 deaths; Organic Heart Disease 20; Respiratory Diseases and Influenza 27, and Bright's Disease 3. The deaths among persons of 65 and upwards was 48.0 per cent. of the total number as compared with 40.4 in 1913, and 42.1 in 1912.

Infant Mortality.

34 deaths occurred among children under 1 year of age, this is equal to a death-rate of 76.5 per 1000 births as compared with 106.5 for 1913 and 87.8 for 1912. This is the lowest rate since 1910, when the rate was 68.6. Of the deaths 12 were assigned to Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth, compared with 26 in 1913; 7 were due to Pneumonia, 4 to Whooping Cough, and 2 to Diarrhœa.

Table IV. at the end of the report shows all the causes of the Infant Mortality at different age periods.

The following shows the number of legitimate and illegitimate births and the number of deaths which occurred among the children:—

		Births.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths.
Legitimate	.....	428	..... 29	..... 6.7
Illegitimate	.....	16	..... 5	..... 31.2

Zymotic Death-Rate.

There were 7 deaths from Zymotic Disease, viz.: Whooping Cough 4, and Diarrhœa 3; this is equal to a death-rate of .31 per 1000 of the population as compared with a total of 9 deaths and a rate of .41 per 1000 for 1913.

The following Table shows the Quarters in which the deaths occurred:—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	—	—	3	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Of the 5,336 houses in the district (Census 1911) 3,977 are supplied with water through 1,760 services of the Biggleswade Rural District Council. During the year the services have increased by 340, and the number of houses supplied by 674. The Table on page 16 sets out the details relating to each Parish. For this, and other information, I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Carne, A.M.I.M.E., the Water Board's Engineer. The majority of the other houses depend for their supply upon "shallow" wells, and I need not reiterate the numerous objections there are to these wells as a source of domestic water supply.

During the year 12 samples of water from wells in various parts of the district have been analysed, and 9 were found to be polluted and unfit for drinking purposes.

The main supply is an excellent one, and is a great asset to the district. The water is derived from a well near Biggleswade, it is pumped to a large reservoir on Topler's Hill, thence it descends to the various services in the districts supplied. The well is in the lower green sand beneath the gault and is 180 feet deep, the water level being about 54 feet below the surface.

Six Candy Filters installed at New Spring Pumping Station in 1913 to remove the iron from the water, continue to give very satisfactory results.

The work of laying mains for a supply to the Parishes of Potton and Sutton was commenced in October 1913, and completed in February 1914, 6,633 yards of iron pipes being laid for that purpose.

Since the completion of these mains 411 houses in Potton and 48 in Sutton have been connected up.

Samples of water have, periodically, been submitted for analysis, and the results show that there is no alteration in the character of the water, except for the removal of the oxide of iron.

The following analyses of two samples of water taken on August 30th, 1913, one sample being taken from the mains before the water had passed through the Filters, and the other sample being taken after the water had passed through the Filters:—

Date of taking sample, August 30th, 1913.

Sample obtained from Pumping Station.

The Sample contained:—	Unfiltered.	Filtered
	Grains per gallon.	
Total solid matter	20.00	23.00
Chlorides	1.20	1.20
Equal to Chloride of Sodium (common salt)	1.97	1.97
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	None	None
Ammonia (Free) .....	.0098	.0091
„ (Albuminoid) .....	.0014	.0007
Oxygen absorbed by Organic Matter in		
15 minutes at 140 deg. F. ....	.0168	.0140
Appearance in 2 ft. Tube	Turbid	Clear pale blue
Smell when heated to 100 deg. F.	None	None
Metals	iron 1/100 grain per gal.	None, no trace of iron
Microscopic Examination		No deposit
Hardness	Temporary	16.8 deg. 17.0 deg.
	Permanent	1.7 deg. 1.8 deg.
	—	—
	Total hardness	18.5 deg 18.8 deg.

REMARKS.

Unfiltered Water.—Total solid matter consists chiefly of carbonate of lime (chalk). Albuminoid ammonia and oxygen absorbed are low and quite satisfactory. The turbidity consists chiefly of oxide of iron with a slight trace of clay. There is practically no change in the character of the water.

Filtered Water.—The water is perfectly clear and bright and contains no iron. The composition of the water is practically unaltered by the filtration, and it is quite free from organic matter.

(Signed) J. WEST KNIGHTS,

Public Analyst.

The average supply per head per day (taking 4.3 persons per property and including all water used for public purposes) is about 12 gallons.

Towards the end of the year I inspected the water supplies of Dunton, Eyeworth and Wrestlingworth, and I append herewith my Report on the same.

Report on the Water Supply of Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth and Dunton.

To the MEMBERS of the PRESCRIBED PARISHES.

Gentlemen,—

Acting upon your instructions I beg to report to you on the Water Supply of Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth, and Dunton. Before referring to each village separately it may be desirable to make a few preliminary remarks. With regard to the source of all well and spring water, and the danger of water supplies becoming contaminated, I need not enter fully, as this has already been ably dealt with by the late Dr. Bywater in his report on the Water Supply of Potton, and which will be found in his annual report for the year 1912. I might, however, be permitted to remind you that wells may be divided into two classes:—

1. Surface or so-called “Shallow Wells” which do not extend below an impermeable stratum, and are, almost invariably, contaminated from the surface of the ground.
2. “Deep Wells” where the water is reached by boring through the clay or other impermeable stratum, the water having no connection with that above this stratum.

From the above it will be gathered that “shallow wells” are generally undesirable as they are always liable to contamination being usually situated near to privies, stagnant pools, heaps of decaying vegetable and animal refuse, &c.

With regard to “Deep Wells” they are of course quite satisfactory provided that all surface water is effectually prevented from gaining access to the interior of the well, but they suffer from the same disadvantage as “shallow wells” if this is not so. I may here state that of all the wells I was able to look into, not one of them was adequately protected from surface contamination.

Proceeding now to the consideration of each individual village:—

WRESTLINGWORTH derives its water supply entirely from “shallow wells,” which vary in depth, but are all situated in the Glacial drift over Gault, many of them being dry in summer.

35 wells were examined and these formed the supply for 118 houses, and 1 open pond (? spring) was the only available water supply for 2 cottages from which it was 200 yards distant.

Construction.

21 were draw wells, and the interior was in every case “dry steined,” and in no instance were the bricks set in cement. The protection from surface washings was in every case of wood, and in most cases even this was defective. 14 were fitted with pumps, and although I made careful enquiries, in none could I find that the well was other than “dry steined” and moreover the stone covering in many was defective.

Position.

A. As regards dwelling.

11 were under 5 feet from the house.

3 „ between 5 and 10 feet from the house.

7 „ „ 10 and 20 „ „ „ „

2 „ „ 20 and 30 „ „ „ „

3 „ „ 30 and 40 „ „ „ „

2 „ „ 40 and 50 „ „ „ „

7 were over 50 feet from the house.

1 of the latter was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house.

B. As regards Closet, Cesspool, Drain, or Farm Yard.

4 were within 5 feet.

8 „ between 10 and 20 feet distant

10 „ „ 20 and 30 „ „

7 „ „ 30 and 40 „ „

4 „ „ 60 and 100 „ „

2 „ over 100 feet distant.

In nearly every case the well was situated near to some source of pollution, either closet, cesspool, drain, or farm yard.

Many houses were without any water supply whatever, and were dependent on wells on other property.

Results of Water Analysis.

I selected three wells in different parts of the village, and submitted the samples drawn from them to Mr. West Knights, F.I.C., F.C.S. (Public Analyst for Cambridgeshire, &c.) for his examination and opinion. These wells were selected as, from the information I obtained, they all supplied a large number of cottages, in some cases the inhabitants preferring to use the water from them rather than from a well situated on their own premises.

The following are the opinions expressed by Mr. West Knights upon the samples :—

Sample 1.

From "Three Horseshoes Public House."

"I consider the water is polluted with sewage and is unfit for drinking purposes."

Sample 2.

From Hatley Road.

"I consider the water is polluted with sewage and is unfit for drinking purposes."

Sample 3:

From Mill End, Potton Road.

"I consider the water is polluted with sewage and is unfit for drinking purposes."

In my opinion the above facts constitute a very serious condition, it is evident that the water supply is not only in the case of many of the cottages deficient, but also the existing supplies are dangerous, and it would be impossible to make them safe.

I therefore strongly urge that the village be connected up with the water supplied by the Biggleswade Water Board, this is within reasonable distance and the water is of the highest degree of purity.

EYEWORTH.

At Eyeworth 17 wells were examined, 1 being situated in the centre of the village of which I shall have most to say. Of the remaining 16 wells, 2 were bored wells, the remainder being simply surface water wells.

So far as I could ascertain neither of the bored wells was protected from surface washings, as the lining was of the "dry steined" order, and therefore no doubt each received a large amount of surface water, moreover, they were both in comparatively close proximity to farm yards and were consequently probably polluted. They however only supplied 1 house each, and did not affect the majority of the inhabitants.

The remaining 14, were all surface water wells, they supplied 28 houses, and were all of the most primitive type, showing faulty construction, "dry steined interiors," and with little or no protection from surface washings, moreover in every instance I was informed that the water from them was never used for drinking purposes, showing that the inhabitants have no confidence in the water they yielded, and this I can well understand for they were all situated in positions where the water was liable to serious pollution.

I now come to the remaining well "the village pump," this is situated about the centre of the village. The well is a bored one, and has been in existence many years, but here again I could not find out that the upper part of it was properly constructed, it is probably "dry steined" as were most wells sunk in earlier times, and will have no backing of puddled clay, moreover the top of the well consists of stone slabs and if these were cemented together at any time they are not now, hence it is not protected from surface washings, and the wood work also of the pump is defective and rotten.

This is the well from which the 28 houses get their supply of drinking water, and I am of opinion that it is quite an inadequate supply as many of the houses are a great distance from it, some of them being about a quarter of a mile away.

I sent a sample of water from it to Mr. West Knights for his examination and he reports it to be unpolluted, but I am however strongly of opinion that the water supply of Eyeworth is quite inadequate, and that advantage should be taken of the opportunity that will probably occur when the neighbouring villages of Wrestlingworth and Dunton decide to be supplied with the water from the mains of the Biggleswade Water Board, that these mains be extended to supply Eyeworth also. This will probably mean a saving of expense to the village, as I have little doubt that some water scheme will be insisted upon in the near future.

DUNTON.

The water supply of 80 houses at Dunton was inquired into, and it was found that the supply was chiefly from surface water wells. The wells examined were 32 in number, of which 2 only were bored, the remainder being surface water wells. Of the 2 bored wells 1 was situated at a farmhouse, and supplies the drinking water for 2 houses, the other was the "Village Pump" situated about the centre of the village and supplies the drinking water for 32 houses. With regard to the interior construction of both these I cannot definitely say whether they are satisfactory, but the presumption is that for some length they are both "dry steined" and will therefore admit a large quantity of surface water. The one at the farmhouse is dangerously near the farmyard, where pigs are kept, and where there is deposited a considerable quantity of manure. The external construction of both is faulty, the wood work is not sound, and the stone flags covering the wells are imperfectly jointed so that I have little doubt that surface washings find their way to the interior of the well, and so contaminate the water spring from the bore.

No less than 46 houses derive their drinking water from shallow wells, these are in every case badly constructed and leaky so that polluted water can easily find its way in, and moreover they were all situated a short distance from some possible source of contamination, either farmyard, cesspool, privy, or drain. 8 houses had no wells on the premises and obtained the water supply from the village pump, and the inhabitants of 24 houses which had surface wells on the premises would not use that water for drinking purposes, but always obtained this latter from the village pump.

The most important point, however, is that, as I have stated above, 46 houses, that is more than half, are solely dependant on water drawn from surface water wells for drinking purposes, the reason being that they are situated far away from the village pump.

I selected 2 wells in different parts of the village, these being the only available water supply for the inhabitants of the surrounding houses, and submitted samples of the water to Mr. West Knights for his examination and opinion.

The following is the result of Mr. West Knights' analysis :—

Sample 1.

From Millo Cross Road.

“ I consider the water is not of satisfactory purity and ought not to be used for drinking purposes.”

Sample 2.

From Cambridge Terrace (the only available supply for 10 houses.)

“ I consider the water is polluted with sewage and is unfit for drinking purposes.”

I also submitted a sample of water from the “village pump” for analysis upon which Mr. West Knights reports :—

“ I consider the water is highly polluted with sewage and is quite unfit for drinking purposes.”

I consider that the above facts clearly show that the water supply of the village is inadequate, and so far as the majority of the houses is concerned unsatisfactory and even contaminated.

There is at a reasonable distance an available supply of water of the highest degree of purity, and I would therefore urge that a scheme be at once entered upon to provide the village with water from the mains of the Biggleswade Water Board.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HUTCHINSON WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Biggleswade, January 9th, 1915.

Table showing the Parishes supplied by the Mains of the
Biggleswade Water Board.

	No. of Houses Census, 1911.	No. of Houses Supplied up to Dec. 31st, 1914	Increase during 1914.
Arlesey	550	436	22
Astwick	13	8	8
Blunham	162	97	9
Campton	108	93	
Chicksands	10	2	
Clifton	348	290	6
Cockayne Hatley	28		
Dunton	112		
Edworth	20	20	
Everton	48		
Eyeworth	30		
Henlow	235	163	4
Langford	310	315	1
Meppershall	165	4	1
Mogerhanger	108	85	
Northill	318	300	4
Potton	527	411	411
Sandy	809	702	52
Shefford	210	208	11
Shefford Hardwicke	21	8	
Southill	275	241	9
Stondon	16		
Stotfold	488	393	88
Sutton	59	48	48
Tempsford	126	105	
Warden	106	48	
Wrestlingworth	134		

Rivers and Streams.

Every effort is made to prevent nuisance arising from drains emptying into ditches and watercourses. It has been found that many small cesspools, which receive surface water, as well as sewage have overflows discharging into ditches. If these cesspools are not emptied very frequently nuisance must arise. Great improvement has been effected in this respect by the Sanitary Inspectors arranging with the owners to disconnect the surface water drains from the cesspools and lead the water direct to the ditch.

Drainage, Sewerage, and Sewage Disposal.

House drainage is defective or entirely wanting in certain parts of the district. In a great many cases the drains are very primitive, and lead to the nearest ditch, and not infrequently serious nuisance is caused thereby. The proximity of these drains to sources of water supply is too often apparent. Slop-water is frequently thrown on to the land adjoining the cottages. A system of sewerage exists for a part of the town of Potton, and the condition of the sewers is very doubtful, but it is difficult to get information on the point. The W.C. pans have up to the present been hand flushed, but now that the public water supply has been laid on, I hope this unsatisfactory arrangement will soon cease to exist.

May I once more draw attention to the fact that too frequently one finds that house drainage and reconstructions are undertaken without notice being given to the Sanitary Inspectors, and owners are strongly advised to communicate with the Sanitary Inspector, whenever any alteration or addition to the drains on their property is contemplated. No charge is made for this supervision, and it ensures that the work is satisfactorily carried out. All new drains and sanitary fittings should be properly constructed and tested before being covered in, and their position (and also that of cesspools) in regard to sources of water supply demands the most careful supervision. A reference to the summary of the Sanitary Inspectors' Reports will show the work done during the year. I would again remind property owners that water-closets, privies, ashpits, cesspools, etc., even in connection with existing buildings come under the provisions of the bye-laws; plans must be submitted to the Surveyor and the approval of the Council obtained before they are erected. This seems to have been ignored in the past with very undesirable results, but a penalty of forty shillings is provided for this omission, and the Council may also pull down and demolish the structure.

Closet Accommodation.

A large number of the old objectionable privy-vaults and privy-middens still exist. W.C.'s are possible at Potton, but there are still houses close to the sewers, and where the conveniences have not yet been converted to W.C.'s. Whenever the Sanitary Inspectors find privy-vaults or privy-middens in a defective condition, action is taken in order to get them converted into pail closets. Many have been thus dealt with during the year, and I hope that ultimately the whole of these insanitary privies will be abolished.

Scavenging.

The emptying of privies, earth closets, cesspools, and the removal of household ashes and refuse, is carried out by contract, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors in six parishes, viz. :—Arlesey, Henlow, Langford, Potton, Sandy and Shefford. A summary of the work done is set out on page 40 of this report.

Disposal of House Refuse.

The provision of proper galvanised-iron sanitary ashbins is being slowly enforced throughout the district where the ashpit accommodation is absent or defective.

HOUSING.

This subject has received your careful attention during the year. Three plots of land have been purchased at Sandy, and plans approved and loan sanctioned by the Local Government Board for the erection upon two of such plots, of 27 houses. These were commenced in October, 1914, and at the date of this report are nearing completion. The remaining plot will accommodate about 12 more houses. At Potton about 3 acres of land have been purchased and plans approved for 12 cottages, and so soon as the National Crisis is passed I hope the work will be at once proceeded with, as the Local Government Board have represented the urgent necessity for cottages.

Cottages are also greatly required in other parts of the districts of which the following are the most urgent :—

Arlesey	probably	30	houses	required.
Shefford	„	20	„	„
Everton	„	10	„	„
Wrestlingworth	„	10	„	„
Campton	„	10	„	„
Tempsford	„	10	„	„
Muggerhanger	„	10	„	„

Housing Inspection.

The following statement of the work done during 1914 under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning (etc.) Act, 1909, is set out in accordance with the Local Government Board's General Order of September 13th, 1910 :—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	233
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	20
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	5
Number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders...				307
Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human Habitation	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished after making Closing Orders, but without Demolition Orders	...	...	...	4
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	3
Number of houses demolished after Order made by Council	...	...	...	3

Procedure Adopted.

After the inspection has been made a notice is sent to the person responsible intimating the nature of the defect or nuisance. If the matter is not attended to within a reasonable time, and the conditions are not of such degree as to warrant the making of a Closing Order, Statutory notices under the Public Health Acts are obtained and served. The scarcity of houses makes procedure under Section 17 of rather dubious utility, and is only resorted to after careful consideration of all the circumstances.

FOOD AND MILK SUPPLY.

Milk Supply, Cowsheds, and Dairies.

There are 83 persons registered in the district as Cowkeepers, Dairymen or Purveyors of milk.

The various premises have been systematically inspected during the year, and many improvements have been effected, but there are still many premises which are unsatisfactory.

In the Annual Report for 1913 a full account was published of the condition of the Cowsheds and Dairies in the district after a thorough inspection by the late Dr. Bywater.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 30 on the Register, of which 9 are licensed. Generally speaking, they are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Food and Meat Inspection.

This is carried out for the whole Rural District by Mr. Robinson, the Inspector for the Southern Division, who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, for Meat and Food Inspection, and to whose report I would draw your attention

I would like here to strongly point out to your Council the great desirability of providing your Meat and Food Inspector with a motor cycle in order to enable him to carry out his work with greater efficiency.

During the summer months slaughtering is frequently carried on during the evenings, and a motor cycle would be a means of enabling him to carry out inspections at these times.

Professor Kenwood in his last Annual Report for the County of Bedford, remarks under the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, that "With the existing Staff the working efficiency of an officer is enormously increased at a comparatively small cost by the provision of a motor cycle.

Bakehouses.

36 of these premises come under inspection.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

For the purpose of administration the district has been divided into Northern and Southern Divisions, a line drawn East and West through the town of Biggleswade approximating to the division. The Northern portion comprises the parishes of Blunham, Cockayne Hatley, Dunton, Everton, Eyeworth, Mogerhanger, Northill, Potton, Sandy, Sutton, Tempsford, Wrestlingworth, Warden, having a total acreage of 30,190, and a population of 10,247. This is in charge of Mr. J. Owen Jones, who is also the Surveyor of Roads, etc., to the Council.

The Southern portion comprises the parishes of Arlesey, Astwick, Campton, Chicksands, Clifton, Edworth, Henlow, Langford, Meppershall, Shefford, Shefford Hardwicke, Southill, Stondon, Stotfold, having a total acreage of 23,437, and a population of 11,687. This is in charge of Mr. C. M. Robinson, who is also the Meat and Food Inspector to the Council for the whole district. A summary of their work is appended to this report.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the district can obtain free Bacteriological Examinations in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis and Meningitis. These examinations are carried out by the Lister Institute, as the Council do not possess the necessary fitted laboratory. The number of examinations made during the year was 82.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Small Pox Hospital.

This is situated in the Urban District, in a field adjoining Langford Road, about a mile from Biggleswade Station. It is a corrugated iron building lined with match-board. It consists of 2 wards, each containing 6 beds. There is a bath-room and sink adjoining each ward, and earth closets are provided. There is an administrative block and a small mortuary. A caretaker resides on the premises.

The Hospital was erected in 1902 at a cost of £516.

General Isolation Hospital.

This is a permanent building situated on the Potton Road, about one mile from Biggleswade. It consists of an Administrative Block, Scarlet Fever Block, Diphtheria Block, Typhoid Block, Laundry, Disinfection Block and a Mortuary. A modern Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector is installed.

The Hospital was erected in 1879 at a cost of £2,500, and enlarged in 1904 at a cost of £5,814.

The Administrative Block was enlarged in 1907 at a cost of £400

Accommodation, according to Local Government Board Regulations, is as follows :—

Scarlet Fever Block	10 beds
Diphtheria ,,	8 ,,
Typhoid ,,	4 ,,
<hr/>	
Total	22 ,,

Both Hospitals are managed by the Joint Hospital Board. The visiting Medical Officer is Dr. Welsh, of Biggleswade.

The following Table shows the extent to which the Hospital was used by the Rural District during 1914, and the parishes whence the patients came :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.
Potton	49	5	—
Sandy	1	—	—
Eyeworth	1	—	—
Blunham	—	—	2
Northill	10	—	—
Edworth	1	—	—
Everton	1	1	—
Stotfold	—	1	—
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	63	7	2
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever.

81 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year as compared with 44 in 1913. Table A shows the parishes and the months in which they occurred. 63 cases were isolated at the hospital, which is 77 per cent. of all those notified.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever throughout the year at Potton was due to the mild type that all the cases assumed, so that the initial signs were overlooked by parents and no medical advice was sought.

Closure of the Schools on two occasions gave no permanent good effect in reducing the number of cases.

TABLE A.

Showing the district in which **Scarlet Fever** occurred and the months in which they were notified.

DISTRICT.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Potton	2	12	3	2	2	4	6	6	4	2	10	8	61
Northill	3	1	1	2	1		4						12
Everton			1										1
Edworth					1								1
Eyeworth					1								1
Sandy	3						1						4
Arlesey												1	1
	8	13	5	4	5	4	11	6	4	2	10	9	81

Diphtheria.

9 cases of Diphtheria were notified, 7 of which were removed to the hospital. All the patients recovered.

Provision of Antitoxin.

Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Antitoxin. It is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Potton Road, and doctors can obtain it according to their requirements. The earlier this remedy is used in a case of Diphtheria, the greater the chance of recovery. Wherever there is the least suspicion of Diphtheria, it is wise to inject Antitoxin, and to submit a swab for examination. If the latter should prove to be negative, no harm is done, and should it on the other hand be positive much valuable time has been saved.

Enteric Fever.

4 cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year, two of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and two were isolated at home. All the patients recovered.

Puerperal Fever.

One case of Puerperal Fever occurred and the patient recovered.

Disinfection.

After the removal, or recovery of patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases, the infected rooms are disinfected with formic aldehyde vapour, and the bedding and clothing removed for steam disinfection.

Erysipelas.

25 cases were notified, most of which occurred in the Northern part of the district.

Measles.

During the early part of the year and again in the Autumn, this disease was prevalent in certain parts of the district, and school closure had to be resorted to in Southill.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was prevalent at Arlesey and Stotfold in the early part of the year, and at Northill in September. In each case the affected schools were closed for a time.

SMALL POX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Small Pox was notified during the year.

Vaccination.

I am indebted to Mr. Wagg, Clerk to the Guardians of the Biggleswade Union, for the following particulars relating to Vaccination in the Rural District of Biggleswade :—

Vaccinations for the Year ending 31st December, 1914.

Under 1 year.	1 year and upwards.	Total	
56	3	59	

Diarrhœa.

3 deaths occurred from this disease compared with 1 in 1913, 6 in 1912, and 31 in 1911.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

By the further regulations which came into force on February 1st, 1913, all forms of Tuberculosis are now notifiable.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

32 "primary" and 3 "secondary" notifications were received during the year, and the cases were visited either by the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspectors.

9 deaths from this disease occurred during the year. This is equal to a death-rate of .40 per 1000 of the population, compared with 1.13 in 1913. Disinfection was carried out at all the premises where the deaths took place, and in a number of instances the walls were stripped and cleansed and the ceilings white-washed.

Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

12 were notified for the year, and the cases were visited.

7 deaths were recorded.

The following steps are now taken in connection with notified cases unless considered unnecessary :—

1. All cases are visited by the Medical Officer of Health, or one of the Sanitary Inspectors.

2. Detailed particulars are obtained as to possible sources of infection, the health of other inmates of the house, etc., etc., and the results recorded on forms and printed precautions are left.
3. A careful Sanitary Inspection of the premises is carried out, and the results recorded. We endeavour to get any defect remedied without delay.
4. Cleansing and disinfection is carried out when necessary.

CANCER.

19 deaths were due to Cancer as compared with 28 in 1913. The Death-rate from this disease is equal to .86 per 1,000 of the population.

School Hygiene.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Public Elementary Schools is carried out by Dr. Herdman, the School Medical Officer for the County of Bedford. Co-ordination of the work of the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer is provided for by arrangements which work entirely satisfactorily.

The sanitary condition of the School premises is supervised by the School Medical Officer, and appears to be satisfactory. The following is the record of the School Closure during the year:—

School.	Closed from	Until	Reason for Closure.
Arlesey Siding Mixed	January 9th	February 10th	Whooping Cough
„ „ Infants	„ 6th	„ 6th	„ „
„ St. Peters'	„ 6th	„ 6th	„ „
Stotfold Infants	„ 30th	„ 20th	„ „
Southill (Broom)	February 4th	„ 18th	Measles
Potton Mixed	„ 11th	„ 25th	Scarlet Fever
„ Infants	„ 11th	„ 27th	„ „
Southill	March 11th	March 27th	Measles
Potton Mixed	Sept. 21st	October 9th	Scarlet Fever
„ Infants	„ 21st	„ 2th	„ „
Northill	„ 21st	„ 27th	Whooping Cough
Clifton Fields	October 23rd	Nov. 6th	Mumps

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following tables refer to the Sanitary Inspections, etc., of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. They are in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State for the Home Office. Tables I. and II. are printed in full, but III. and IV. only so far as the particulars relate to this district :

1.—INSPECTION. (Whole District).

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

PREMISES.	Number of				
	Inspections.		Written Notices.		Prosecutions.
	N.	S.	N.	S.	
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	6			..
Workshops and Workplaces (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	52	4	7	..
Total ...	56	58	4	7	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND. (Whole District).

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.				Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
	Found		Remedied			
	N.	S.	N.	S.		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*—						
Want of cleanliness	4	1	4	1	..	..
Want of ventilation ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors ...	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances ... ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Sanitary } insufficient ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
accommo- } unsuitable or defective	..	..	..	..	..	..
dation } not separate for sexes	..	..	..	..	..	..
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—						
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouses (S 101)—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary re- quirements for bakehouses (97 to 100) ... ..	..	8		8	..	..
Other offences— (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in part 3 of this Report)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ...	4	10	4	9	..	..

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

N.—Northern Division.

S.—Southern Division.

3.—HOME WORK. (Whole District).

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' List, Section 107.				Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.
	Lists received from Employers once in the Year.		Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.	
	Lists	Out-w'kers			
Wearing Apparel Making, etc.	1	1			4

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (S 131) at the end of the year	Northern Division	Southern Division.
Dressmakers and Milliners	4	8
Laundries	1	1
Bootmakers	5	12
Bakers	12	24
Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights	3	6
Motor and Cycle Engineers	5	7
Stonemasons	1	1
Saddlers	4	1
Carpenters and Joiners	7	11
Blacksmiths	11	14
Tailors	4	3
Plumbers	3	3
Brickmaker	1	3
Tannery	1	..
Printer	2	..
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	64	94

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Southern Division.

1. For failing to comply with Statutory notice to discontinue overcrowding a dwelling-house.
Order made for overcrowding to be discontinued within 21 days, and defendant to pay costs of prosecution 10/6.
2. For failing to cleanse floor of cowshed and limewash walls as required by Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Case adjourned for one month for defendant to carry out work. This was done, defendant paying costs of prosecution.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

NORTHERN DIVISION, for the Year 1914.

J. OWEN JONES,

F.I.S.E., M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.

1914 Summary of Inspection.

Inspections made after complaints or for other special purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1226
Re-Inspections after order or notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	443
Visits to supervise works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
„ in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
School Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
„ „ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
„ „ Bakchouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
„ „ Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

325 Preliminary Notices have been served with respect to the following defects, viz. :—

Dirty ceilings and walls of rooms	...	...	...	15
Nuisances from dampness	...	...	...	63
Walls or ceilings in a dilapidated condition	...	...	...	74
Defective floors, roofs, or eaves guttering	...	...	...	144
Broken window frames or windows incapable of being opened	...	...	...	41
Defective or untrapped drains	...	...	...	23
Absence of drain	...	...	...	22
Closet accommodation, defective, insufficient or foul	...	...	...	80
Dustbins or ashpits defective or insufficient	...	...	...	87
Absence of proper yard paving	...	...	...	73
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	228
				—
...				850

Of these 325 Notices, 263 have been complied with, 58 are in hand, and 4 were outstanding at the end of the year.

72 Statutory Notices were served with respect to the following Defects, etc., viz. :—

Nuisances arising from Dampness	...	...	...	6
Defective Flooring of Rooms	...	...	...	5
Broken Walls and Ceilings	...	...	...	12
Defective Window Frames or Windows not made to open	...	...	...	5
Defective Stairs	...	...	...	4
„ Drains, etc.	...	...	...	1
„ Roofs	...	...	...	4
„ Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	3
Dust-bins or Ash-pits Defective or Absent	...	...	...	1
Houses without proper Water Supply	...	...	...	64
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	2

Of these 72 Notices, 58 have been complied with, and 24 were outstanding at the end of the year.

7 Buildings were demolished, 4 at Sandy, 2 at Potton and 1 at Tempsford.

7 Samples of Drinking Water were taken from different Wells, at Dunton, Eyeworth and Wrestlingworth, 6 were polluted with sewage and unfit for drinking purposes.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

83 Houses were inspected and the results recorded. 153 visits were made to inspect works in progress.

99 Houses were repaired ; several of these were inspected last year.

The Medical Officer of Health represented 7 as unfit for habitation, and 2 were demolished by order of the Council.

The work was carried out as follows :—

Parish.	Inspected.	Repaired.	Demolished.
Sandy	36	44	—
Potton	24	27	2
Tempsford	20	10	—
Wrestlingworth	3	12	—
Blunham	—	2	—
Muggerhanger	—	4	—
	—	—	—
	83	99	2

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans deposited and approved	...	...	...	...	23
Number of Buildings erected	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Houses erected	...	...	...	...	45

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Total Number 14. Registered 12. Licensed 2.

76 Inspections were made and 25 Notices were served for defects and in each case the work was carried out.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of persons registered as Cowkeepers and Dairymen	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number of persons registered as Purveyors of Milk only	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of persons having discontinued business	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
66 visits were made and in 14 instances the conditions were found unsatisfactory and Notices were served.							

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 on the Register. 51 visits were made and 2 Notices were served.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register are 64, 56 visits were made and 3 Notices served.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 8 premises licensed for Storage of Petroleum Spirit. 32 visits were made.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**SOUTHERN DIVISION, for the Year, 1914.**

C. M. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A.

Summary of Inspections.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	150
Inspections made after complaint or other special purpose	...	...	...	746
Re-Inspections after Order or Notice	...	...	...	863
Visits to Works in progress	...	...	...	191
„ „ Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	58
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	28
„ „ Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	103
„ „ Foodshops	...	...	...	278
„ „ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	119
„ re Infectious Diseases, including Tubercular cases	...	...	...	64
„ to Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	11
Number of Rooms Disinfected after Infectious Disease or deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	13

297 Intimation Notices have been served with respect to the following Defects, viz. :—

Defective and Dirty Ceilings and Walls of Rooms ...	236
Defective House Roofs, Walls, Floors and Eaves Guttering	237
Defective Window Frames or Windows not made to open	121
Rooms Insufficiently Lighted or Ventilated	103
Defective Sinks or Waste Pipes	15
Absence of, or Defective Yard Paving	133
Nuisances arising from Dampness	57
Defective Stairs	18
Absence of proper Ash Receptacles	186
Absence of proper Water Supply	50
Defective Closet Accommodation	160
Overcrowding Dwelling-houses	18
Defective or Untrapped Drains	51
Absence of Drain	84
Dirty or unsatisfactory Cowsheds or Dairies ...	9
Dirty or unsatisfactory Bakehouses	2
Accumulations of Refuse	9
Nuisances from the Keeping of Animals	7
Foul Ditches	6
Miscellaneous	50
<hr/>	
Total	1552

247 Intimation Notices including a number served during 1913, were complied with during the year.

102 Statutory Notices were served with respect to the following Defects, viz. :—

Dirty Ceilings and Walls of Rooms	56
Defective Window Frames or Windows not made to open.	40
Defective House Roofs, Walls, Floors and Eaves Guttering	70

Rooms Insufficiently Lighted or Ventilated	9
Damp Walls or Floors of Houses	30
Overcrowding Dwelling-houses	8
Absence of proper Water Supply	50
Defective Drains or Untrapped Drain Inlets	10
Absence of Drain	20
Defective Closet Accommodation	24
Absence of proper Ash Receptacle	41
Absence of, or Defective Yard Paving	35
Miscellaneous Defects	20
<hr/>	
Total	413

94 Statutory Notices including a number served during 1913 were complied with during the year.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the year a thorough and detailed inspection of 150 houses in the Southern Division, has been made under the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

A separate card is allocated to each house on which the full information obtained, including the general condition of the premises, is entered.

Defects of some nature or other were found to exist at each of the premises inspected, and in each case the necessary steps were taken to get these remedied.

The Chief defects found to exist were:—

- Defective House Roofs, Walls, Floors and Eaves Gutting.
- Dirty Ceiling and Walls of Rooms.
- Defective Window Frames or Windows not made to open.
- Rooms Insufficiently Lighted or Ventilated.
- Dampness in Walls and Floors.
- Absence of, or Defective Drains.
- „ „ Ash Receptacles.
- „ „ or Defective Yard Paving.
- Defective or insufficient Closet Accommodation.

Overcrowding was found to exist in 10 of the houses inspected.

During the year 208 houses were repaired, a number of these having been inspected during 1913, 13 houses were represented by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for habitation, 5 of which were subsequently closed by order of the Council, and one house was demolished by the owner after the making of a demolition order by the Council.

The parishes in which the inspections were made and the houses repaired are as follows :—

	Houses Inspected.	Houses Repaired.
Arlesey	10	47
Astwick	—	4
Campton	—	8
Clifton	13	25
Edworth	—	15
Henlow	7	7
Langford	37	33
Meppershall	17	9
Shefford	17	23
Southill	36	16
Stotfold	13	21
	—	—
	150	208
	—	—

Overcrowding.

During the early part of the year, as a result of enquiries throughout the Parish of Langford, no less than 18 cases of overcrowding were discovered. An intimation notice was served in each instance calling upon the occupier to discontinue the overcrowding of the dwelling-house, and later, in eight cases where these notices were not complied with, the facts were reported to the Council, who authorised the service of statutory notices.

In one instance, after every effort had been made to endeavour to get the occupier to abate the overcrowding, the Council gave instructions for proceedings to be taken before the Magistrates, who made an order on the defendant, to abate the nuisance from overcrowding within 21 days and pay the costs of the prosecution.

In each of the above cases the overcrowding was subsequently abated either by the taking of a larger house, or otherwise by sending members of the family out to sleep at the houses of relatives or friends. This latter method is very unsatisfactory, as it often means that when the visits of the Sanitary Inspector cease, the old order of things is again resumed.

Paving the Yards.

No less than 133 yards were found to be in an insanitary condition, due to the absence of, or the defective condition of the yard paving.

An unpaved yard cannot be properly cleansed, and in wet weather allows mud and filth to be carried into the house. A strip of impervious paving greatly assists in preventing surface water from gaining access to the house walls and floors and tends to make the house much dryer, it also gives the occupants encouragement in keeping the surroundings clean and free from accumulations of refuse, &c.

Slaughter-houses.

There are 16 slaughter-houses on the register in the Southern Division, 7 of which are licensed annually and 9 are registered.

The use of one slaughter-house has been discontinued during the year.

103 visits were made and generally speaking the premises were found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The parishes in which the slaughter-houses are situated are as follows :—

Arlesey	.....	3	Langford	.....	2
Campton	.....	1	Shefford	.....	3
Clifton	.....	2	Stotfold	.....	4
Henlow	.....	1			

Meat and Food Inspection.

278 visits have been paid to the various premises in the Northern and Southern Divisions, where food is sold or prepared for sale, but beyond 6 small pieces of beef and several organs of animals, which were unsound, no diseased or unwholesome food was discovered.

In a rural district of a large area, where the food premises are far apart, efficient meat inspection is a very difficult matter.

Slaughter-houses require frequent visits and timed as far as possible when slaughtering is in progress, as it is at this time when one is enabled to carry out a proper examination of the carcasses.

This is practically impossible with an ordinary bicycle, and the use of a motor cycle would greatly facilitate in the more efficient carrying out of this work.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 52 persons registered as dairymen, cowkeepers or purveyors of milk in the Southern Division. Six applications for registration were received during the year, and six persons discontinued business, and their names were removed from the register.

The parishes in which the premises are situated are as follows :

Arlesey	11	Meppershall	5
Clifton	8	Shefford	2
Henlow	5	Stotfold	10
Langford	5	Southill	5

One person who is registered as a purveyor in the district, resides in an adjoining district.

119 visits of inspection have been made and in 34 instances the premises were found in an unsatisfactory condition, chiefly due to want of cleansing. It was only necessary to serve notices in 9 instances, in the other cases the insanitary conditions being remedied as soon as the occupier's attention was drawn to same.

Legal proceedings were taken against one Cowkeeper and Dairyman for failing to cleanse the floors and limewash the interior of the cowshed, as required by the Regulations.

The case was adjourned for a month for the defendant to carry out the work, which he did.

A number of improvements have been carried out during the year, and in several instances improvements are in hand, and I am pleased to report that with regard to the structure, lighting, ventilation, drainage and water supply, a large proportion of the dairies and cowsheds are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Workshops.

There are 94 Workshops on the register in the Southern Division, including 24 Bakehouses, and 52 inspections were made during the year.

During these inspections 10 defects were found to exist, of which 9 were remedied after the attention of the occupiers had been called to same.

Generally speaking, the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act are well observed.

The tables referring to the Factories and Workshops will be found on Pages 27 and 28.

Water Supply.

5 samples of water were taken from wells supplying 10 houses in the Southern District and submitted for analysis, 3 of which were certified as being polluted and unfit for drinking purposes.

Public Scavenging Work.

This work is carried out by contract at Arlesey, Henlow, Langford and Shefford.

During the year 13 complaints were received with reference to the manner in which the work had been carried out, and where upon investigation, cause for complaint was found, the attention of the Contractor was called to same.

Generally speaking, the work is carried out fairly satisfactorily.

Complaints.

During the year 48 complaints were received relating to the following matters :—

Insanitary houses	...	...	...	...	8
Overcrowding dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	2
Absence of proper water supply	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from dampness	...	...	...	...	2
Defective privies or cesspools	...	...	...	...	5
Foul ditches	...	...	...	...	3
Absence of, or defective drains	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances from the keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	2

Complaints with reference to scavenging work ...	13
Miscellaneous	6

Each complaint, whether anonymous or otherwise, was investigated, and where a nuisance was found to exist the necessary action was taken to have the same remedied.

Petroleum Acts.

There are 11 premises in the Southern District licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit.

These premises are occasionally inspected in order to ascertain that the conditions of the license are being observed.

Sanitary Conveniences.

Continued attention has been given during the year to these places, and as a result of action taken, 72 privy pits have been converted into pail closets, 32 new closets have been erected where the existing closet accommodation was insufficient, or the closets were in a dilapidated condition, and 126 new galvanised iron ash-bins have been provided.

Where there is no proper sewerage system, earth or pail closet are far preferable to privy pits or privy middens, but even these are liable to become a nuisance without proper care.

If occupiers would only make a point of keeping a small receptacle filled with dry earth or fine ashes inside the closet apartment, and sprinkle a little into the pail after use, and also prevent slops and waste water from being put into the pail, then any nuisance in connection with these premises would cease to exist.

The following Table shows the districts in which pail closets have been substituted for privy-pits and where galvanised iron ash-bins have been provided:—

	Astwick	Arlesey.	Campton.	Clifton.	Edworth.	Henlow.	Langford.	Meppershall	Shefford.	Southill.	Stotfold.	Totals.
Privy Pits converted into pail closets.	2	6	4	7	7	1	16	9	5	2	13	72
New closets erected.		1	1	4	1	1	20			1	3	32
Galvanised iron ashbins provided.		46	5	11			31	4	10	3	16	126

Summary of the Scavenging Work carried out for the Year 1914.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.											
PARISH	DAY WORK.				NIGHT WORK.					Average Cost	
	No. of Houses from which refuse was removed.	No. of Ashpits emptied.	No. of Ashboxes emptied.	No. of Loads removed	No. of Houses from which refuse was removed.	No. of Privies emptied.	No. of Cesspools emptied.	No. of Pail Closets emptied.	No. of Loads removed.	Per House	Per Load.
Arlesey	16,772	24	11,409	246	25,929	27	128	25,404	668	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Henlow	9,195		7,224	95	15,992	10	25	14,669	222	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Langford	13,296	2	9,258	117	16,086	55	29	15,762	248	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$4\frac{5}{8}$
Shefford	7,714	4	6,972	135	13,702	19	7	13,761	185	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$4\frac{1}{2}$
NORTHERN DIVISION.											
Sandy	28,660	40	28,030	552	34,212	234	331	33,256	1323	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$2\frac{1}{4}$
Potton	24,668	14	23,334	458	6,037	79	35	5,319	393	$\frac{3}{4}$ d.	$2\frac{9}{16}$

TABLE 1.--Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

Biggleswade Rural District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District, 8	of Residents registered in the District, 9	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12	13
1909	21382	476	—	22.2	333	15.5	63	7	41	86.1	277	12.9
1910	21356	495	—	23.1	309	14.4	65	19	34	68.6	252	11.8
1911	21934	494	495	22.5	348	15.8	98	25	42	84.9	275	12.5
1912	21974	485	489	22.2	364	16.5	98	32	43	87.8	298	13.5
1913	22010	459	460	20.9	359	16.3	110	33	49	106.5	282	12.8
1914	22045	438	444	20.1	327	14.8	126	24	34	76.5	225	10.2

Area of District in acres (land and in-land water) } 53,628

Total population at all ages21934 } At Census 1911
 Total families or separate occupiers.....5088 }

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO *HOSPITAL
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 y'rs	15 and under 25 y'rs	25 and under 45 y'rs	45 and under 65 y'rs	65 and upw'ds	
Small-pox									
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ..									
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	9		1	8					7
Erysipelas	25		1	3	3	5	11	2	
Scarlet Fever	81		12	64		5			63
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	4				1	2	1		2
Relapsing Fever (R)									
Continued Fever (C) ...									
Puerperal Fever	1					1			
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1				1				
Polionmyelitis									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	10							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	35			3	13	13	6		
Other forms of Tubercu- losis	12		4	3	1	2	2		
Totals	178	10	18	81	19	28	20	2	72

*Biggleswade Isolation Hospital.

Total available Beds, 22. Number of Diseases that can be
concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Net Deaths at the Subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-residents' in Institutions in Dist't.
		All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 Years.	2 and under 5 Years.	5 and under 15 Years.	15 and under 25 Years.	25 and under 45 Years.	45 and under 65 Years.	65 and upwards.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	{ Certified (c) { Uncertified	222 3	33 1	7	6	6	13	16	35	106 2	130
1. Enteric Fever											
2. Small-pox											
3. Measles											
4. Scarlet Fever											
5. Whooping Cough... ..		4	4								
6. Diphtheria and Croup											
7. Influenza		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
8. Erysipelas											
9. Phthisis											
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		9	..	..	..	..	5	3	1	..	9
10. Tuberculous Meningitis		2	..	..	1	1					
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases		5	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	3
12. Cancer, malignant disease		19	..	..	..	1	..	1	9	8	6
13. Rheumatic Fever ...											
14. Meningitis		1	..	..	..	..	1				
15. Organic Heart Disease		30	..	..	..	..	..	2	8	20	32
16. Bronchitis		26	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	21	2
17. Pneumonia (all forms)		19	7	4	1	..	1	1	..	5	20
18. Other diseases of respiratory organs		3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
19. Diarrhœa and Enteritis		3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis											
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ...		3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
21a. Alcoholism											
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease		7	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	3	7
23. Puerperal Fever... ..											
24. Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...											
25. Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...		13	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26. Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		8	1	..	..	2	1	..	2	2	..
27. Suicide		2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
28. Other Defined Diseases		64	5	..	2	..	2	3	3	44	51
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown		6	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	1	..
Totals		225	34	7	6	6	13	16	35	108	130

Table IV. Infant Mortality.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All causes	Certified.	8	3	4	—	15	7	2	4	5	33
	Uncertified							1			1
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	2	1	4
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	..	..	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	..	1	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	2	...	...	...	2	1	..	..	1	4
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	1	..	3	7
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	1	...	...	...	1	..	..	..	..	1
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	..	...	1	...	1	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	4	..	..	...	4	..	..	..	..	4
Other Causes	...	..	2	3	...	5	..	2	..	..	7
	...	1	..	..	...	1	..	..	..	..	1
Totals	...	8	3	4	—	15	7	3	4	5	34

Nett Births in the year: Legitimate 428; Illegitimate 16. Nett Deaths in the year of: legitimate infants 29; illegitimate infants 5